Allotment of Security National Code number to Workers

5349. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allot a Security National Code number to all the workers enrolled with Employees Provident Fund Scheme as per the recommendation of the Indian Labour Conference;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this recommendation is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has initiated a modernization programme which involves allotment of a Unique Social Security Number (SSN) to all its members. The process of registration of members and generation of Nationally Unique Number will be done through in-house computer system. The work of allotment of smart card will follow once the exercise of allotment of National Unique Identification Numbers is complete. This system will enable the subscribers to access his account balance and file his claim from any of the EPF Offices as against the present system which limit him only to one office where he is registered. The first phase of the modernization programme involves setting up of six Pilot Centres covering all the four zones to be made operational in a time span of 24 months. After stabilisation of the six Pilot Centres, the redesigned system is proposed to be replicated all over the country in a phased manner.

Wage discrimination on gender basis

†5350. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that countrary to the claims discrimination in wages on gender basis is rampant even in PSUs served by contract workers particularly where construction work is going on despite Equal Remuneration Act and other laws;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the findings thereof and if not, whether Government propose to conduct thorough survey in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to end discrimination against women workers in respect of wages and other amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Women workers in construction projects come under the unorganized sector and their wages are paid as per provision of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Act does not make any distinction on the basis of sex.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which extends to the whole of India, provides for equal remuneration to women for the same work or work of a similar nature. Government is not aware of discrimination in wages on gender basis.

Sample Surveys have been conducted in various industries including the Building and Construction Industry. Separate analysis of wages in the Public Sector has not been done under any of the sample Surveys. However, the statistics collected under these Surveys do not reveal any case of violation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 in the sample units/establishments covered so far.

To safeguard the interest of these workers, the Government has enacted the Building and Other Construcation Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. The Acts provide for regulation of their employment and to ensure safety to the workers. The Act also provides for setting up of construction Workers Welfare Board by the State Governments to provide certain welfare and social security measures for the construction workers including female construction workers. These include assistance in case of accidents, pension at the age of 60 year, premia for Group Insurance Scheme, health care, education to the children and maternity benefits to the female beneficiaries etc. The State Governments have been requested to constitute Boards and implement the Act for the benefit of the construction workers.

Wage fixation in electronic news media

5351. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a commission for fixation of wages in electronic news media;